

Draft for Consultation from  
22/11/2016 until 20/12/2016



# Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy

Equality Impact Assessment

# Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy - 2016

## How to comment on this document

You are invited to make comments on the revised draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy and any of the documents that support it as listed below:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Screening Report
- Equalities Impact Assessment Screening Report
- Consultation Statement

These documents will be available online at <http://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/environment-and-green-infrastructure/open-space/honiton-sports-pitch-strategy/> and at the Council Offices in Sidmouth. Copies of the revised draft strategy will also be available at:

- Honiton Library, 50 New Street, Honiton, EX14 1BS
- Honiton Town Council, The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ

The feedback we receive on this revised draft will be used to inform any subsequent revisions if considered necessary.

You can comment:

by email at [localplan@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@eastdevon.gov.uk)

or by post to: Planning Policy, East Devon District Council, The Knowle, Station Road,  
Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

**All comments should be received by the 5pm on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 so that they can be taken into account before the next stage. All comments received will be available to view on our website however private postal and email addresses and phone numbers will be redacted.**

# Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy

## Equality Impact Assessment

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### Screening Report

Prepared by Officers of East Devon District Council

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to assess the draft proposals in the Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy (hereafter referred to as the strategy) to determine whether it requires a full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). An EqIA is required for all plans which may have a significant effect on a group with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.2 The conclusion of the assessment is that the strategy is unlikely to have a significant negative effect under the Equality legislation so should not be subject to a full EqIA.
- 1.3 This report will be subject to public consultation along with the revised strategy.

#### Equality Impact Assessment Form

1. **Name of the current or proposed new or changed, policy, strategy, procedure, project or service being assessed:**  
Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy
2. **Team responsible for completing the Equality Impact Assessment:**  
Planning Policy, East Devon District Council
3. **What is the main aim or purpose of the current or proposed new or changed, policy, strategy, procedure, project or service and what are the intended outcomes?**  
The East Devon Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 (PPS) assesses supply and demand for sports pitches across the district to 2024 and identifies a need for improvements to existing and additional sports

pitches to meet the needs of Honiton. The main aim and purpose of the Revised Draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy (the strategy) is to identify the most appropriate ways to deliver against the action plans of the PPS. It assesses options for and subsequently recommends sites for the delivery of new sports pitches and associated facilities and improvements to existing sports pitch sites to meet the needs identified by the PPS. The intention is that the strategy will inform the delivery of such improvements to provision in Honiton.

**4. What existing sources of evidence will you use to help you identify the likely impacts on different groups of people?**

Public consultation on the draft and revised draft strategies;  
Pitch user surveys conducted in support of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2015;  
Open space user surveys conducted in support of the Open Space Study 2012;  
“Accessible Sports Facilities” Sport England Design Guidance Note 2010;  
“Artificial Sports Lighting” Sport England Design Guidance Note 2012;  
Consultation with Environmental Health officers;  
Site visits.

**5. Are there gaps in evidence which make it difficult or impossible to form an opinion on how the existing or proposed policy, strategy, procedure, project or service does or might affect different groups of people? If so what are the gaps and how and when do you intend to collect the additional information?**

There is a sufficient breadth and depth of information to allow the strategy to be produced and the potential impacts on differing groups to be reasonably assessed.

A range of evidence bases were consulted in developing the strategy (see above).

Officers consulted widely on the initial draft strategy and will do so on the revised draft strategy including contacting clubs, landowners, town and parish councils, Sport England, National Governing Bodies for sports, immediate neighbours to sites, interest groups and others.

Officers met with and discussed key issues by correspondence with relevant individual key stakeholders.

The strategy has assessed impacts on a strategic level, but further assessment may be required once site specific proposals have been worked up in detail in support of future planning applications.

**6. Having analysed the initial and additional sources of information including feedback from any consultation, is there any evidence that the policy, strategy, procedure, project or service has or is likely to have an adverse equality impact on, and/or that there are known or anticipated different needs or requirements, for any of these different groups of people?**

The strategy is likely to have some impact on the amenity of immediate neighbours to sites if they are developed in due course as recommended. In some cases this may be an adverse impact, however, it is not possible to assess the full impacts until more specific and detailed plans are produced in support of planning applications. In addition to this, whilst specific neighbours to specific sites and specific users of facilities may have relevant protected characteristics as defined by Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, “neighbours” as a “group” and “facility users” as a group do not. Production of the strategy has been carried out in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and had due regard to the needs of groups with relevant protected characteristics as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in that all people and groups of people have had the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy and will have the opportunity to comment on the revised draft strategy irrelevant of whether they have relevant protected characteristics or not.

More detailed plans in due course will require further assessment to ensure that proposed facilities are accessible for disabled and able users alike and this is reflected in the strategy.

7. **Is a full EqIA required?**

A full EqIA is not required because:

**The proposals are not likely to result in negative equality impacts that would require justification or mitigation.** The strategy recommends ways to resolve existing sports pitch issues and meet the needs of Honiton to 2024. In doing so it recommends projects to be delivered in due course.

Planning applications for these and other projects will be required to meet the policies of the Local Plan which as referred to in the strategy includes the need to ensure facilities are accessible to all potential users.

**There is unlikely to be negative public opinion or media coverage about the proposed changes.** As with any document dealing with land use planning, negative public opinion is likely to be received about specific sites. However, this is not likely to be the result of adverse equalities impact on any groups with protected characteristics. The strategy considers strategic issues in relation to sports pitch delivery but recognises that there may be more localised issues in relation to detailed plans. These issues will be considered and assessed at the point of a planning application being made and are already covered by the Local Plan.

**An opportunity has not been missed to promote equality of opportunity and further details do not need to be provided of action that can be taken to remedy this.**